



## *School Bus Safety Tips*

### **School Bus Safety**

#### **Information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

School buses are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in avoiding crashes and preventing injury.

School buses are the safest mode of transportation for getting children back and forth to school.

School buses keep an annual estimated 17.3 million cars off roads surrounding schools each morning

#### **Tips for Children:**

- Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Be a good neighbor. Respect private property and always be on your best behavior while waiting for the bus
- Stay out of the street when waiting for the bus
- When the bus approaches, stand at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the curb, and line up away from the street.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's okay before stepping onto the bus.
- Remain seated at all time while the bus is moving
- Do not shout, yell, or sing; it distracts the driver.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before getting off
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least five giant steps (10 feet)

ahead of the bus before you cross. Be sure that the bus driver can see you, and you can see the bus driver.

- Use the handrails to avoid falls. When exiting the bus, be careful that clothing with drawstrings, and book bags with straps don't get caught in the handrails or doors.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- Walk at least three giant steps away from the side of the bus.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.

### Reminder for Drivers:

**All motorists are *required* by law to stop when the red lights on buses are flashing.** Passing a school bus when the red lights are flashing is not only illegal it is also one of the biggest threats to student safety. Motorists should be aware that the red flashing lights and the stop sign may be engaged shortly after the amber lights are on. Vehicles traveling in the same direction as the bus are always required to stop. In Maryland, the law states that vehicles must come to a complete stop on both sides of the roadway if there is no physical divider or barrier. Violations can result in a citation and fine.

The automated school bus camera enforcement program continues to expand and is designed to allow the cameras to be moved throughout the county as needed. These violations are reviewed by the police department's Automated Traffic Enforcement Unit (ATEU) and citations are mailed to the registered owner. The fine from the automated enforcement is \$125.00. No points are associated with a citation issued through this program. If a driver is stopped by a police officer for passing a stopped school bus with stop arm activated and lights flashing, the fine is \$570 and 3 points.